

An information session on the efforts to eradicate the Asian longhorned beetle has been set for Tuesday, October 26, at the Rahway City Library, 2 City Hall Plaza, at the corner of West Milton Avenue and Main Street. Residents from Rahway and neighboring Linden will be invited to the meeting to discuss the work done so far to delineate the infestation area and the work to come in removing infested and potential host trees.

The first tree infested with Asian longhorned beetle in the City of Rahway was discovered on Tuesday, October 5. Found in an area along the city's border with Carteret Borough, the tree became the 406th determined to be infested with the beetle in the quarantine zone that includes Woodbridge, Carteret, Rahway and Linden.

Additional meetings are being planned for Carteret and Woodbridge residents, as the ALB team moves closer to the start of tree removal.

Field surveys continued this week in the four municipalities to determine the extent of the infestation. The main core of the infestation, with trees showing exit holes and egg sites, remains about 1 square mile in size. Twenty-four USFS climbers conducting aerial inspections and about 15 program staff conducting ground surveys on smaller trees continue to work delimiting surveys. About 15,650 trees have been inspected to date with 406 infested trees detected. Six new compliance agreements were issued this week for a total of 46 agreements in place. Iron Leaf Recycling in Edison NJ was certified as a disposal site of ALB regulated materials.

On October 12, The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Director of Forests and Parks along with members of his staff visited the ALB Program in Carteret. This agency will take the lead for reforestation, stream remediation, and wood chip utilization.

On October 13, Dr. Anand Persad, Entomologist and Technical Advisor with Davey Tree Expert Company in Kent, Ohio, visited the ALB Program in Carteret. During the next year, Dr. Persad will be training approximately 6,000 people in the Northeast about Asian longhorned beetle.

On October 16, the ALB fall media campaign "Don't Move Firewood" began running ads in several newspapers. The bulk of the ads are scheduled to run during the month of November. The program targeted newspapers serving the quarantine areas in New Jersey, New York and Illinois.